

the Barton family and the Bice family and the Winslow family were out campaigning. Those same family Members trekked up to Tarrant County, Texas, and we got on the telephones and we stood in front of the polling places and we handed out cards and we did all the grass roots things, and again, Jon was outspent, but when the dust had cleared, he won county-wide. He got the largest number of votes for any county-wide office on the ballot, and he almost got more votes than I did. That kind of upset me a little bit.

But he has gone on to do an outstanding job. In fact, he has done such an outstanding job that this year he is up for reelection and he has no opponent. When I go to Tarrant County, which is about half of my congressional district, more and more now I am introduced as Judge Barton's brother, which is a real tribute to him.

I really rise this evening to again appeal to all my colleagues and to anybody who may be watching in the country, if anyone knows of something that could help a metastasized cancer of the liver, please get in touch with my office so we can refer that to my brother's doctors.

Jon is one of the many cancer statistics. Liver cancer kills 14,000 people in the United States each year. It is a very, very difficult disease to arrest once it has progressed. In my brother's case, it is serious, but there is still some small hope.

Just like the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK), there are many miracles that have occurred in cancer. The Barton family is hoping for one more.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to commend the Speaker for allowing me to do this special order. I want to thank my colleagues for listening, and simply hope that we may yet find one miracle for Jon Barton in Fort Worth, Texas.

FAIR ELECTIONS IN MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this 5-minute special order this evening to talk about an event which has been likened to the crumbling of the Berlin Wall that took place a week ago this past Sunday.

I had the privilege of serving with a team from the International Republican Institute, co-leading, along with former Secretary of State James Baker and the mayor of San Diego, California, Susan Golding, a delegation of 44 people, very qualified, former ambassadors and other leaders in this country, observing the election that took place in Mexico on Sunday, July 2.

It was an extraordinary experience. I will say that because there were many

people who assumed that after 71 years of one-party control by the Institutional Revolutionary Party that the election would once again see the PRI Party, the Institutional Revolutionary Party, prevail and win.

It is no secret that there have been problems with past elections in Mexico. In fact, corruption has been reported very, very widely in past elections. But I am happy to say, having observed what are known as Casias, election voting spots in urban areas in Mexico City, as well as moving into the rural areas, that this was an extraordinarily fair election.

In fact, an organization that was established earlier in the last decade known as the Federal Electoral Institute, the IFE, was a structure which did play a big role in ensuring the fairness of the election.

This also is a great testimonial to a couple of things. One of the individuals is the present president of Mexico, President Ernesto Zedillo, with whom Secretary Baker and Mayor Golding and I met on Saturday morning, the day before the election. In that meeting I conveyed to him what I will share with our colleagues here, and that is the fact that when he was elected president in 1995, having observed the tremendous economic reforms which had taken place in Mexico, he said that his goal was to ensure self-determination and free and fair elections for the people of Mexico.

That is exactly what happened on July 2. I want to extend my very hearty congratulations, as I already have, to president-elect Vicente Fox, who is a representative of the National Action Party, the PAN party, which for years has argued for economic policies which we hold near and dear, and which I am happy to say were embraced in large part by the Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The embrace of those economic policies by the National Action Party played a big role in bringing about free and fair elections. Let me explain that, Mr. Speaker. Back in 1988 when President Carlos Salinas was elected, he made a decision that he was going to pursue broad economic liberalization in Mexico.

What did that consist of? It consisted of privatization, decentralization, closing down State-run enterprises. He took the very bold step in Mexico City of closing down the largest oil refinery because of environmental concerns that existed there.

We saw the economic reforms put into place in the latter part of the 1980s and the early part of the 1990s, and one of the greatest examples of those economic reforms came when we here in this Congress and the Bush and Clinton administrations put together the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Now, we know that the North American Free Trade Agreement is a much

maligned entity, a structure which people criticize often. But I happen to believe that the NAFTA has been a resounding success, and the most recent example of its success was what took place on July 2.

Why? Because as I and many of my colleagues have argued time and time again, whether it is in Mexico or the People's Republic of China, or South Korea or Taiwan or Argentina or Chile, the interdependence of economic and political freedom is key. We saw in the early part of the 1990s major economic reforms take place in Mexico, and we saw on July 2, a week ago this past Sunday, the ultimate in political reform.

I have to say that during those years of economic reform we also saw political reform take place in that for the first time we saw the election of opposition party candidates in local elections, mayors. Fifteen of the 16 largest cities in Mexico have opposition party mayors. We have also seen it in gubernatorial elections.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have a tremendous, tremendous opportunity to encourage this transition. We have to be very vigilant. We need to strengthen the already strong relationship that exists with Mexico.

I would like to congratulate all of the nearly 800 people who were on the International Observer team, the International Republican Institute, which again put together a very, very strong operation, and the people of Mexico. They were so enthused about the prospect of being able to vote and have their votes count.

I will never forget the 18-year-old girl whom I saw in a little tiny town called Metepec, above Atlisco. She said her family for years had worked on behalf of the PAN party, and finally, as we stood over the counting at this little casia and saw 210 votes cast for Mr. Fox and 106 votes for the PRI candidate, Mr. Labastida, we saw by a two to one margin the election of a new party and a new president.

So I wish the people of Mexico extraordinarily well, and I wish the leadership that we have here in the United States God speed in our attempt to do everything that we can to help in this very important transition as we face the many serious challenges that exist on the border and in the relationship between our two important countries.

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ILLEGAL NARCOTICS AND OUR NATIONAL DRUG POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, usually on Tuesday I come as chairman of the